



# Department of Homeland Security Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 11 April 2006

Current  
Nationwide  
Threat Level is

**ELEVATED**  
SIGNIFICANT RISK OF  
TERRORIST ATTACKS

[For info click here](http://www.dhs.gov/)

<http://www.dhs.gov/>

## Daily Highlights

- Reuters reports Secretary of the Department of Energy Bodman said consumers may face gasoline shortages or price hikes at the pump this summer due to fuel additive changes at refineries and a likely strong hurricane season. (See item [4](#))
- The New York Times reports a vast program to replace the voice and data lines that link the Federal Aviation Administration's air traffic control system has caused at least three major failures in the system recently, resulting in the grounding of scores of airliners. (See item [22](#))
- The Associated Press reports the California Department of Health Services' Richmond Campus is helping to lead the bird flu fight, as the state is uniquely vulnerable to the germ arriving via birds or people. (See item [31](#))

### DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report *Fast Jump*

Production Industries: [Energy](#); [Chemical Industry and Hazardous Materials](#); [Defense Industrial Base](#)

Service Industries: [Banking and Finance](#); [Transportation and Border Security](#); [Postal and Shipping](#)

Sustenance and Health: [Agriculture](#); [Food](#); [Water](#); [Public Health](#)

Federal and State: [Government](#); [Emergency Services](#)

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## Energy Sector

**Current Electricity Sector Threat Alert Levels: Physical: ELEVATED, Cyber: ELEVATED**

Scale: LOW, GUARDED, ELEVATED, HIGH, SEVERE [Source: ISAC for the Electricity Sector (ES-ISAC) – <http://www.esisac.com>]

1. *April 10, Dow Jones* — **BP, Shell to repair Iraq oil metering system.** Iraq has signed a preliminary agreement with Royal Dutch Shell and BP to fix the Iraqi oil production metering system, said Shamkhi Faraj, head of Oil Marketing and Finance Follow-up Office at the oil ministry. Faraj gave no further details on how long it would take to fix the system. Iraq's oil

metering system has been out of order since the fall of Saddam Hussein's regime and this has encouraged smugglers to ship oil and fuel from Iraq to Iran and other Gulf states, Iraqi oil experts and officials have said. Arabic daily al-Hayat newspaper quoted an Iraqi oil expert as saying around 300,000 barrels a day are being smuggled from Iraq, costing the country some \$ 5.5 billion a year. Iraq's Deputy Ambassador Feisal Amin al-Istrabadi said the project would take one to two years to finish. Shell has been eyeing oil contracts in Iraq. It has approached the Iraqi oil ministry to explore options for a contract to help double output at a field in the oil-rich south.

Source: [http://money.iwon.com/jsp/nw/nwdt\\_rt\\_top.jsp?cat=TOPBIZ&src=704&feed=dji&section=news&news\\_id=dji-00016020060410&date=20060410&alias=/alias/money/cm/nw](http://money.iwon.com/jsp/nw/nwdt_rt_top.jsp?cat=TOPBIZ&src=704&feed=dji&section=news&news_id=dji-00016020060410&date=20060410&alias=/alias/money/cm/nw)

2. *April 08, New York Times* — **Relieving the power grid, dirtying the air.** It is supposed to be a win-win deal for New York, saving the city energy and money. By agreeing to switch on a number of backup generators at its sewage treatment plants on hot summer days when power use is at its peak, the city gets a break on electricity rates from the New York Power Authority. But this routine use of backup generators during non-emergency conditions may have contributed to the spill of 231 million gallons of raw sewage into the Hudson River during the 2003 blackout. The generator at the North River plant in Harlem had been switched on for several hours before the blackout as part of the power reduction program. By the time of the blackout — when it was most needed — the machine had overheated and shut down, according to documents filed by federal prosecutors in New York. The generator failure spotlights what some see as a serious flaw in the state's policy to reduce demand on the power grid and prevent brownouts.

Source: <http://www.nytimes.com/2006/04/08/nyregion/08generator.html?ei=5087&en=3180d4d3de9f7938&ex=1144728000&pagewanted=print>

3. *April 07, Associated Press* — **Texas gas field fastest-growing in nation.** Several companies are tapping into the nation's fastest-growing natural gas field — The Barnett Shale in Texas. The reservoir is vital to a tight U.S. supply market, has become a template for other fields nationwide, and is turning oil and gas into this region's most important industry. The changing landscape is making wells on high schools and private property a familiar sight. Barnett Shale produces about 1.2 billion cubic feet of natural gas a day, to eventually reach 1.7 billion cubic feet, or two percent of the annual domestic production. That growth is crucial because most gas drilling operations are declining or stagnating. "If we did not have shale gas, then there would be less gas available," said consultant Kent Bowker. The Barnett Shale wasn't even among the nation's top 100 natural gas fields until the last few years when technological advances helped drive growth. Barnett Shale has gone from 25 rigs drilling wells in 2001 to 130 by the end of last year. Such drilling could be instrumental to the nation's natural gas supply. "That is the only segment that is going to give us a chance to continue growing," said Bob Esser of Cambridge Energy Research Associates.

Source: [http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2006/04/07/AR2006040700924\\_pf.html](http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2006/04/07/AR2006040700924_pf.html)

4. *April 07, Reuters* — **Summer fuel shortages, spikes possible: Bodman.** U.S. consumers may face gasoline shortages or price hikes at the pump this summer due to fuel additive changes at refineries and a likely strong hurricane season, the Department of Energy Secretary Sam

Bodman said on Friday, April 7. Bodman said with U.S. refineries running at 86 percent capacity following the battering they received from hurricanes Katrina and Rita last year, high crude oil prices and an annual U.S. shift to summer gasoline, the switch by refineries to ethanol as a fuel additive from MTBE could result in shortages in some areas this summer. "We expect there will be sufficient ethanol...But it is reasonable to expect that some areas could experience fits and starts, but that shouldn't last too long," Bodman said. Bodman said the U.S. government is preparing for what meteorologists are warning could be another heavy hurricane season this summer. The government's plans include laying in additional gasoline supplies for cities that may face evacuation, plus preparing back-up power generators for those cities. Bodman said he is working on getting countries that have benefited from high oil prices to invest in expanding production capacity to keep prices down, a strategy he said is working.

Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2006/04/07/AR2006040701364.html>

5. *April 04, North American Electric Reliability Council* — **NERC files electric reliability organization application in the United States and Canada.** On Tuesday, April 4, the North American Electric Reliability Council (NERC) filed its application to become the Electric Reliability Organization (ERO) with the U.S. Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC). Concurrently with its FERC application, NERC made filings seeking comparable recognition from government authorities in Canada. Once NERC gains recognition as the ERO from the United States and in Canada, NERC will have the authority to develop and enforce reliability standards for the bulk power system in both countries. NERC is working to receive all necessary approvals from U.S. and Canadian authorities later this summer so that it can begin operations as the ERO on January 1, 2007. Formal approval of NERC's ERO applications and formal adoption of its reliability standards by U.S. and Canadian authorities will result in the implementation of a system of mandatory and enforceable reliability standards for all users, owners, and operators of the interconnected bulk power system in North America.

Source: <http://www.nerc.com/>

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## **Chemical Industry and Hazardous Materials Sector**

6. *April 10, Associated Press* — **Fire at chemical plant in Illinois prompts road closure.** A fire at a Pelron Corporation chemical plant that prompted a hazardous materials response in southwest suburban McCook, IL, Sunday, April 9, was raised to an extra-alarm, police said. The fire prompted emergency officials to close 47th Street from Harlem to Lawndale avenues.

Source: [http://cbs2chicago.com/topstories/local\\_story\\_099123127.html](http://cbs2chicago.com/topstories/local_story_099123127.html)

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## **Defense Industrial Base Sector**

7. *April 10, Aviation Now* — **General: B-52 modernization foreshadows intercontinental ballistic missiles changes.** Modernizing the B-52 bomber fleet with additional conventional weapons and systems while cutting the total number of aircraft is the right plan and will

foreshadow changes to nuclear-tipped intercontinental ballistic missiles, according to Air Force Major General Roger Burg. Burg, director of strategic security in the Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff for Air, Space and Information Operations, Plans and Requirements, told a National Defense University forum on Capitol Hill that the United States needs more conventional strike capabilities that are precise, scalable and quick to respond. Those conventional weapons will work both offensively and defensively. "We don't need them in huge numbers, but a conventional missile strike capability that is precise, tailorable, of the necessary destructive power but no more, would be a very useful tool for future leaders of the United States," said Burg.

Source: [http://www.aviationnow.com/avnow/news/channel\\_aerospacedaily\\_story.jsp?id=news/B5204106.xml](http://www.aviationnow.com/avnow/news/channel_aerospacedaily_story.jsp?id=news/B5204106.xml)

8. *April 10, Defense News* — **DoD establishes depreciation standards for weapons.** In a move toward commercial accounting standards, the Pentagon has just completed assessing the useful life and estimated value of nearly 600 weapon systems acquired in recent decades, one defense official involved in the effort said. The assessment, which estimated the value of the weapons at \$600 billion, will help the Pentagon depreciate the value over the life of the equipment and allow senior defense officials to make "well informed decisions," said Ric Sylvester, deputy director for property and equipment policy in the Office of the Undersecretary of Defense for Acquisitions. The Pentagon, until now, has charged the entire cost of a weapon system as an expenditure in the year it is purchased. The new system will bring the Pentagon in line with commercial standards.

Source: <http://www.defensenews.com/story.php?F=1673787&C=america>

9. *April 10, Defense News* — **Air Force creates Office of Special Projects.** The U.S. Air Force Space Command is creating an Office of Special Projects. The Air Force needs such an office to build systems that are unique to the military and not likely to be pursued by commercial companies, said Lt. Gen. Frank Klotz, Space Command acting commander.

Source: <http://www.defensenews.com/story.php?F=1673437&C=america>

10. *April 09, Associated Press* — **Defense contractor fined \$15 million for violations of Arms Control Export Act.** The Boeing Co. has agreed to pay \$15 million to settle federal allegations that it broke the law by selling commercial airplanes equipped with a small chip that has military applications. It is among the largest fines a company has ever faced for violations of the Arms Control Export Act, which regulates the sale of defense products to overseas interests. The Chicago-based company also agreed to oversight requirements because settlements over previous violations did not result in full compliance. The chip is part of a backup system that maintains an artificial horizon for pilots, Boeing spokesperson Tim Neale said Saturday, April 8.

Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2006/04/08/AR2006040801450.html>

11. *April 08, Aviation Now* — **Pentagon once again considers merger of Air Force, Navy sigint.** Left in disarray by poor management decisions and conflicting requirements, the Pentagon's signals intelligence (sigint) community is struggling to refashion its esoteric skills. Aging aircraft and the need to stay ahead of an increasingly sophisticated 21st century threat — which includes the latest wireless technology used by insurgents — are driving discussions among the

services' top-level leaders. During budget planning sessions later this year, the U.S. Air Force and Navy will be forced to decide whether they should merge their airborne signals intelligence programs and add unmanned options to the mix of sigint aircraft. But efforts to do so before have been troubled, and industry experts warn that the differences between operational schemes remain far apart. General T. Michael Moseley, Air Force chief of staff, predicts that the next round of budget-planning sessions will produce some seminal decisions on future military technology investments. Also in the mix is the U.S. Army, which needs to reconstitute its sigint plans after the demise of the Aerial Common Sensor program. The three services are now cooperating on a sigint study that should conclude in the summer and help determine to what extent the three can cooperate.

Source: [http://www.aviationnow.com/avnow/news/channel\\_awst\\_story.jsp?id=news/aw041006p2.xml](http://www.aviationnow.com/avnow/news/channel_awst_story.jsp?id=news/aw041006p2.xml)

12. *April 07, MarketWatch* — **BAE Systems eyes U.S. defense market.** A year after BAE Systems Plc bought American armored vehicle manufacturer United Defense Industries in the biggest defense deal of 2005, the UK giant appears to be targeting the American market again. If BAE sells its 20 percent stake in Airbus, the company would have some \$5 billion more in its back pocket, according to analysts. BAE said Friday, April 7, that it is starting talks with EADS, which owns the other 80 percent of Boeing Co.'s archrival. The Airbus stake sale, according to BAE Chief Executive Mike Turner, would let the company focus on its transatlantic business. Though it has established and well-regarded U.S. operations, BAE would be looking to buy strategic U.S. assets at a time of renewed sensitivity about foreign ownership. Prices in the industry are high and it could be difficult to find a target that complements BAE's wide ranging lineup and still offers prospects for growth. Still, the allure of U.S. acquisitions is strong. With an annual defense budget that tallies up to over \$500 billion when extra money for Iraq and Afghanistan are added in, there is no bigger customer than the Pentagon.

Source: <http://www.marketwatch.com/News/Story/Story.aspx?guid=%7B39586FAD%2D4831%2D4DE2%2D9F28%2D06A504F2DA66%7D&source=blq%2Fyhoo&dist=yhoo&siteid=yhoo>

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## **Banking and Finance Sector**

13. *April 10, Canadian Broadcasting Corporation* — **Thieves use Canada Savings Bonds database to steal \$100,000.** The Bank of Canada has distributed \$100,000 to reimburse Canada Savings Bonds (CSB) investors victimized by thieves who used personal information in a CSB database to cash bonds. "We have strengthened all procedures and are continuing to see where further safeguards can be implemented," Bank of Canada spokesperson Dale Fleck said. Last December, the Bank of Canada was told of a problem with the accounts of 14 customers who bought bonds through payroll savings programs. The tipoff came from EDS Canada, the IT outsourcing firm that manages the savings bonds database for the central bank. Police said they had arrested two people Friday morning, April 7. In eight of the cases, the suspects used client information to redeem other people's bonds, including banking data, account details, and the personal information of bondholders. Police say the suspects are former employees of EDS Canada.

Source: <http://ca.news.yahoo.com/s/10042006/3/ottawa-thieves-use-csb>



14. *April 09, Computerworld* — **IT spending on UK financial services sees strong growth.** The UK will be the leading market in Europe for IT spending in the banking and insurance industries, with eBanking, Web security and other issues driving IT growth rates that surpass those in the U.S., according to Datamonitor PLC. According to Datamonitor, the UK leads Europe this year with a \$23 billion in IT spending on banking and \$16 billion in spending on insurance. From 2004 through 2008, the year-over-year rate of growth in IT spending by UK banks is expected to be 8.1 percent, compared with 4.5 percent in the U.S., according to Datamonitor. Over the same period, IT spending in the UK insurance industry will grow annually by 4.1 percent, compared with 3.5 percent in the U.S.  
Source: <http://www.computerworld.com/managementtopics/management/itspending/story/0,10801,110358,00.html>
15. *April 06, Investor* — **Losses claimed by online fraud hit \$182 million.** U.S. victims of Internet fraud crimes last year claimed a record \$182 million in losses, up from \$68 million in 2004, according to an annual report from the Internet Crime Complaint Center (IC3), released Thursday, April 6. The IC3 is a joint venture of the FBI and the nonprofit National White Collar Crime Center. While IC3 received more complaints in 2005 than in 2004, it referred to law enforcement agencies fewer cases last year than in 2004. In past years, studies have shown consumers are reluctant to report such scams. A survey by research firm Gartner of 5,000 consumers in 2004 found less than one percent reported incidents of credit card and related online and offline scams to the FBI. With fraud becoming more common, consumers seem willing to report bigger losses, says Gartner analyst Avivah Litan. "What it says to me is that there are some huge crimes out there that are getting reported to the FBI now that in the past were not getting reported," she said. According to IC3, e-mail is by far the dominant method of contact for Internet-related fraud. In the 2005 incidents, e-mail was the contact in nearly three in four cases.  
Source: <http://www.investors.com/editorial/IBDArticles.asp?artsec=17&artnum=1&issue=20060406>
16. *April 06, Government Accountability Office* — **GAO-06-632T: Agencies Can Improve Efforts to Deliver Counter-Terrorism-Financing Training and Technical Assistance Abroad (Testimony).** Disrupting terrorists' financing is necessary to impede their ability to organize, recruit, train, and equip adherents. An interagency Terrorist Financing Working Group (TFWG), chaired by the U.S. Department of State (State), coordinates the delivery of training and technical assistance to vulnerable countries. In addition, the Department of the Treasury Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) leads U.S. efforts to block access to designated terrorists' assets that are subject to U.S. jurisdiction. The Government Accountability Office (GAO) examined U.S. efforts to combat terrorist financing abroad, publishing the report in October 2005. In this testimony, GAO discusses the report's findings about challenges related to TFWG's coordination of the counter-terrorism-financing training and technical assistance abroad, and Treasury's measurement of results and provision of information needed to assess OFAC's efforts to block terrorist assets. Under State's leadership, TFWG has coordinated the interagency delivery of counter-terrorism-financing training and technical assistance in priority and vulnerable countries. However, TFWG's effort has been hampered by the absence of a strategic and integrated plan. GAO found that the effort lacks

three elements: key stakeholder acceptance of roles and practices; strategic alignment of resources with countries' needs and risks; and a process to measurement the effort's results.

Highlights: <http://www.gao.gov/highlights/d06632high.pdf>

Source: <http://www.gao.gov/docsearch/pastweek.html>

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## **Transportation and Border Security Sector**

17. *April 10, WUSA TV9 (DC)* — **Passengers deploy from airplane chute.** The crew of United Flight #221 aborted takeoff after an indicator warned of smoke coming from the plane's left-side engine. It happened as the Airbus 319 taxied on Runway 30 at Virginia's Dulles International Airport on Sunday, April 9. Passengers were deplaned using emergency chutes. Three passengers suffered minor injuries and were treated at the hospital. United #221 was bound for Los Angeles with 120 passengers and five crewmembers.  
Source: [http://www.wusatv9.com/news/news\\_article.aspx?storyid=48306](http://www.wusatv9.com/news/news_article.aspx?storyid=48306)
18. *April 10, Associated Press* — **Security scare closes part of Georgia airport.** Part of an airport terminal was evacuated for about two hours Monday, April 10, and a bomb squad was called in after an unattended bag was spotted as fans and players from the Masters golf tournament headed out of town. The baggage area inside the terminal at Augusta Regional Airport was cordoned off and passengers were evacuated from the area after an airport employee identified a suspicious bag on the sidewalk outside around 8 a.m. EDT, said Christopher White, a spokesperson for the Transportation Security Administration. Some commercial flights were delayed for more than two hours because passengers were delayed in boarding according to airport spokesperson Diane Johnston.  
Source: <http://www.latimes.com/news/nationworld/nation/wire/sns-ap-brf-augusta-airport-evacuation.1.3810519.story?coll=sns-ap-nation-headlines&ctrack=1&cset=true>
19. *April 10, NY1 News (NY)* — **New York bus depot fire under control.** Firefighters have extinguished what was a massive fire at the Metropolitan Transit Authority depot in East Elmhurst, Queens. The fire started at the former Triboro Coach depot near LaGuardia airport sometime after 10:30 EDT Monday, April 10. Police say a backhoe ruptured a gas line. The Port Authority says flights in and out of LaGuardia were not affected. There is no word on injuries.  
Source: <http://www.ny1.com/ny1/content/index.jsp?stid=1&aid=58506>
20. *April 10, Norman Transcript (OK)* — **Trouble ahead over small plane fees.** The National Air Transportation Association (NATA) representing the airlines is seeking about \$2 billion a year in federal tax relief. To accomplish that, NATA wants general aviation — all aircraft except commercial airliners and military — to take up the slack. That would reduce the 7.5 percent “user fees” airline passengers pay. To compensate, an unprecedented user fee would be slapped on general aviation. Federal taxes on aviation go into the Federal Aviation Administration Trust Fund that subsidizes air traffic control and other improvements at major airports. The National Business Aviation Association (NBAA) defines business aircraft as planes used for conducting

business. An exception is air cargo planes such as those operated by UPS and FedEx, which are classified as commercial air carriers. The general aviation industry already contributes about 20 percent of taxes going into the FAA Trust Fund, more than compensating for its limited use of the country's 558 commercial airports. The FAA has not delineated what costs are involved with a shift in user fees. But National Business Aviation Association (NBAA) Operations Director Jay Evans said the NBAA and the other aviation associations agree that modernizing the country's air traffic control system is a priority.

Source: [http://www.normantranscript.com/commerce/cnhinsbusiness\\_story\\_100093213.html?keyword=secondarystory](http://www.normantranscript.com/commerce/cnhinsbusiness_story_100093213.html?keyword=secondarystory)

21. *April 10, Department of Transportation* — **Federal Pipeline Safety Agency reaches agreement with Kinder Morgan to address integrity threats and increased rate of incidents.** The Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) on Monday, April 10, announced it has reached an agreement with Kinder Morgan Energy Partners over system wide safety upgrades in six Western states. This agreement between federal regulators and Kinder Morgan followed several pipeline accidents and is expected to result in up to \$90 million worth of safety improvements. The agreement covers the 3,900-mile Kinder Morgan's Pacific Operations unit in Arizona, California, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, and west Texas. The Pacific Operations unit includes the CALNEV and Santa Fe Pacific Pipelines and associated bulk terminals, but does not include the Carbon Dioxide or Cypress systems. The improvements include those made in response to an August 24, 2005 PHMSA order that required Kinder Morgan to evaluate the safety and reliability of its pipelines. PHMSA pipeline engineers and state pipeline safety program partners will continue to carefully monitor Kinder Morgan's activities for safety assurance.

Source: <http://www.dot.gov/affairs/phmsa0106.htm>

22. *April 09, New York Times* — **A lagging effort to revamp air traffic control causes delays.** A vast program to replace the voice and data lines that link the Federal Aviation Administration's (FAA) air traffic control system has caused at least three major failures in the system recently, resulting in the grounding of scores of airliners, government officials say. The failures have come for various reasons. On March 6, the system lost contact with a radar near Chicago, leading controllers to hold scores of planes on the ground. A new line had failed and the old one had been prematurely disconnected by the FAA, the agency acknowledged. The contract to replace the system was awarded in 2002 to the Harris Corporation, and more of it was supposed to be completed by now, but the schedule was redrawn in December. Marion C. Blakey, administrator of the FAA, acknowledged in a recent interview that it would still be "a climb" to stick to the revised schedule, which calls for completion in December 2007. Todd J. Zinser, the acting inspector general of the Department of Transportation, said the new system, called the FAA Telecommunications Infrastructure, was "a high-risk program," and was unlikely to be done by the end of 2007.

Source: [http://www.nytimes.com/2006/04/10/washington/10control.html?\\_r=1&oref=slogin](http://www.nytimes.com/2006/04/10/washington/10control.html?_r=1&oref=slogin)

23. *March 28, Government Accountability Office* — **GAO-06-545R: Border Security: Investigators Successfully Transported Radioactive Sources Across Our Nation's Borders at Selected Locations [Reposted to reflect changes in the text on pages two and eight].** The Government Accountability Office (GAO) reposted the Web version of this report on April 10, 2006, to reflect changes in the text on pages two and 8. The original version of the report,



posted on March 28, implied that officials from the National Institute of Standards and Technology selected the amount of radioactive sources GAO used in the border testing. The reposted version clarifies that GAO determined the amount of radioactive sources used in the tests after consulting with an outside expert

Source: <http://www.gao.gov/cgi-bin/getrpt?GAO-06-545R>

24. *March 28, Government Accountability Office* — **GAO-06-583T: Border Security: Investigators Transported Radioactive Sources Across Our Nation's Borders at Two Locations [Reposted to reflect changes in the text on pages two and eight.].** Given today's unprecedented terrorism threat environment and the resulting widespread congressional and public interest in the security of our nation's borders, the subcommittee asked the Government Accountability Office (GAO) to conduct an investigation testing whether radioactive sources could be smuggled across U.S. borders. Most travelers enter the United States through the nation's 154 land border ports of entry. Department of Homeland Security U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) inspectors at ports of entry are responsible for the primary inspection of travelers to determine their admissibility into the United States and to enforce laws related to preventing the entry of contraband, such as drugs and weapons of mass destruction. GAO's testimony provides the results of undercover tests made by its investigators to determine whether monitors at U.S. ports of entry detect radioactive sources in vehicles attempting to enter the United States. GAO also provides observations regarding the procedures that CBP inspectors followed during its investigation. GAO is also issuing a report today on the results of this investigation (GAO-06-545). Highlights: <http://www.gao.gov/highlights/d06583thigh.pdf>  
Source: <http://www.gao.gov/cgi-bin/getrpt?GAO-06-583T>

25. *March 08, Government Accountability Office* — **GAO-06-378: Congressional Oversight: FAA Case Study Shows How Agency Performance, Budgeting, and Financial Information Could Enhance Oversight (Report).** Pursuant to various statutes, federal agencies develop an abundance of performance, budget, and financial information that could be useful for Congress' review and monitoring of agencies. However, agencies' understanding of Congress' information needs is often limited and agencies may not be providing timely information in a format that aids congressional understanding of trends and issues. Thus, Members and their staff may not be aware of or avail themselves to certain information. To describe the information available and how it might be used to support congressional oversight, the Federal Aviation Administration was selected as a case study in part due to the large quantity of information already available. The Government Accountability Office (GAO) was asked to identify: (1) information FAA produces that could enhance congressional oversight, (2) other technology and information resources that could enhance congressional oversight, and (3) how committee access to FAA's information could be improved to enhance its timeliness and usefulness. While FAA makes much of its information available on its Website, the GAO recommends that FAA further use technology to enhance congressional access to information, and offer regular meetings with Members of the committee and key staff to discuss areas of mutual concern. The agency generally concurred.  
Highlights: <http://www.gao.gov/highlights/d06378high.pdf>  
Source: <http://www.gao.gov/cgi-bin/getrpt?GAO-06-378>

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## **Postal and Shipping Sector**

Nothing to report.

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## **Agriculture Sector**

**26. *April 10, Naples News (FL)* — Citrus ban ends, but recovery may take years.** The ban on replanting citrus is over. But it could be two to three years before Southwest Florida growers start to replace the hundreds of thousands of trees they've lost to canker since 2004. Young nursery trees are hard to find these days. And most growers say they want to wait until new rules are in play to replant. On March 7, the Florida Department of Agriculture announced it would allow residents in canker quarantine zones to plant citrus again. It lifted a similar ban for commercial growers in February. In the past, residents and growers have had to wait at least two years to replant in quarantine zones. Canker destroyed some of the state's largest nurseries. Some nurseries have yet to rebuild. Others won't reopen. It takes 18 months to grow a nursery tree. So the shortage of trees is expected to last for years. A few years ago commercial nurseries were producing 5.5 million to six million citrus trees annually. Last year production was down to one million trees and more than half of those trees got destroyed because of canker.

Source: [http://www.naplesnews.com/news/2006/apr/10/ban\\_replanting\\_citrus\\_over/?local\\_news](http://www.naplesnews.com/news/2006/apr/10/ban_replanting_citrus_over/?local_news)

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## **Food Sector**

**27. *April 10, USAgNet* — U.S. court clears Canadian beef imports.** The U.S. District Court denies a request to block the importation of live cattle and beef from Canada. U.S. Ninth District Court judge Richard Cebull refused on April 6 to issue a permanent injunction against the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) in order to block the importation of live cattle and beef from Canada. The Ranchers–Cattlemen's Action Legal Fund, petitioned the Court for a permanent injunction against USDA's Final Rule to allow imports of Canadian cattle and beef into the U.S. The U.S. closed its market to Canadian beef and cattle in May 2003 after Canada reported its first case of mad cow.

Source: <http://www.usagnet.com/story-national.cfm?Id=602&yr=2006>

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## **Water Sector**

**28. *April 10, Associated Press* — Mayors ask RWE for water operations.** Several U.S. municipalities on Monday, April 10, urged German utility RWE AG to consider selling some of its water utilities to the communities they serve instead of to financial investors. Ahead of RWE's annual meeting, mayors from several U.S. states pressed the company to sell some utilities it owns through its U.S. subsidiary American Water Works Co. before a planned initial

public offering. The Washington-based consumer rights group Food and Water Watch also issued a joint statement with nine U.S. mayors Monday, calling on RWE to consider their communities' offer. RWE, Germany's biggest electricity producer, said last month it plans to spin off Vorhees, NJ-based American Water through a share offer. American Water owns local utilities that provide water and sewage services to more than 18 million people in 29 U.S. states and Canada.

Source: <http://www.chron.com/disp/story.mpl/ap/fn/3783857.html>

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## **Public Health Sector**

**29. *April 10, Reuters* — Myanmar struggling with 100 bird flu outbreaks.** Bird flu is spreading fast in military-ruled Myanmar, which is now battling more than 100 outbreaks in poultry since the virus was first reported a month ago, United Nations agriculture officials said on Monday, April 10. After visits by two teams from the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the situation in the former Burma appeared to be "more serious than what we imagined," said He Changchui, the FAO's Asia-Pacific representative. Public awareness of bird flu in a nation ruled by military diktat for the past 44 years was an issue, He said, as was getting hold of accurate data from one of the most reclusive regimes in the world. Myanmar reported its first outbreak of H5N1 bird flu on March 13 and within a week the number of outbreaks had climbed to five. Even then, FAO experts said the authorities were struggling to cope.

Source: <http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/BKK292205.htm>

**30. *April 10, Agence France-Presse* — Swan in Croatian capital had bird flu.** A wild swan found dead Friday, April 7, in Zagreb was infected with the H5N1 strain of bird flu, an official said, confirming the Croatian capital's first case of the virus. Veterinary inspectors were monitoring a two-mile zone surrounding the artificial lake on the southwestern outskirts of Zagreb where the swan was discovered. The H5N1 strain of the virus was first detected in Croatia in October, in an eastern part of the country, but its spread was halted by strict containment measures. In mid-March, the H5N1 virus was detected in several seagulls in southern Croatia where it had already been discovered among wild swans.

Source: [http://news.yahoo.com/s/afp/20060410/hl\\_afp/healthflucroatia\\_060410135035:ylt=AsLyBPbXVpNvCwhCYPPBQdSJOrgF:ylu=X3oDMTA5aHJvMDdwBHNIYwN5bmNhdA--](http://news.yahoo.com/s/afp/20060410/hl_afp/healthflucroatia_060410135035:ylt=AsLyBPbXVpNvCwhCYPPBQdSJOrgF:ylu=X3oDMTA5aHJvMDdwBHNIYwN5bmNhdA--)

**31. *April 09, Associated Press* — California lab helping to lead bird flu fight.** The middle-age man with fever, cough, and shallow breath told his doctor he had just returned to Northern California from a chicken farm in Vietnam. That rang the first alarm bell. Then came the initial tests from a local public-health laboratory: a positive result for influenza A, the virus family that includes bird flu. A swab from the man's throat was rushed to the state lab in Richmond, where sophisticated tests yielded even more alarming findings — a strong likelihood he carried the deadly H5N1 strain. The California Department of Health Services' Richmond Campus has seen several adrenaline-pumping moments in recent months when it appeared bird flu had reached America. The man was one of about three-dozen Californians strongly suspected of being infected with bird flu who were tested there. All tested negative in the end. Yet each case served as a practice run of sorts for the disease's feared arrival. The nation's most populous state

is uniquely vulnerable to the germ arriving via birds or people. California has a \$2.5 billion poultry industry, and millions of birds migrate along its flyways. Some 11,000 people arrive each day in California from Southeast Asia alone, officials say.

Source: [http://www.cbsnews.com/stories/2006/04/09/ap/health/mainD8GS\\_KM200.shtml](http://www.cbsnews.com/stories/2006/04/09/ap/health/mainD8GS_KM200.shtml)

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## **Government Sector**

32. *April 10, WUSA TV9 (DC)* — **Man jumps White House fence for the fourth time.** A man jumped the White House fence Sunday, April 9, wearing a "God Bless America" T-shirt. He reportedly screamed that he was a victim of terrorism and that he had intelligence information for the president. The 40-year-old man, Brian Lee Patterson, was unarmed and made his way several dozen yards across the White House lawn before the Secret Service subdued him.

Source: [http://www.wusatv9.com/news/news\\_article.aspx?storyid=48304](http://www.wusatv9.com/news/news_article.aspx?storyid=48304)

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## **Emergency Services Sector**

33. *April 10, Government Accountability Office* — **GAO-06-622T: Hurricane Katrina: Planning for and Management of Federal Disaster Recovery Contracts (Testimony).** The devastation experienced throughout the Gulf Coast region in the wake of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita has called into question the government's ability to effectively respond to such disasters. The government needs to understand what went right and what went wrong, and to apply these lessons to strengthen its disaster response and recovery operations. The federal government relies on partnerships across the public and private sectors to achieve critical results in preparing for and responding to natural disasters, with an increasing reliance on contractors to carry out specific aspects of its missions. At the same time, the acquisition functions at several agencies are on the Government Accountability Office's (GAO) high-risk list, indicating a vulnerability to fraud, waste, and abuse. This testimony discusses how three agencies — the General Services Administration, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers — conducted oversight of key contracts used in response to the hurricanes. Efforts are ongoing by these agencies to address issues GAO and others have identified. While GAO is not making any new recommendations in this testimony, GAO highlights previous recommendations and also identifies other issues agencies should consider when conducting emergency procurements.

Highlights: <http://www.gao.gov/highlights/d06622thigh.pdf>

Source: <http://www.gao.gov/cgi-bin/getrpt?GAO-06-622T>

34. *April 09, San Francisco Sentinel* — **Officials say San Francisco International Airport is ready for any disaster.** In the event of another major earthquake striking Northern California, San Francisco International Airport (SFO) may very well be one of the safest places to be. It was in 2001 that the airport was put to the test during the September 11 terrorist attacks, said Lt. John Quinlan, director of the San Mateo County Office of Emergency Services and Homeland Security. According to Quinlan, at the time, some 8,000 travelers had to be

evacuated from the airport. Quinlan said all of the passengers went to a hotel adjacent to the airport and, within five hours, family members, friends and local taxi drivers had picked up all 8,000 wayward travelers. In the event of a large quake, said Bill Wilkinson, manager of emergency operations at SFO, the Health and Safety Department would be responsible for evacuating all of the passengers at the airport. Any decisions directing travelers to shelter-in-place would be made in consultation with the airport's public information officer, airlines and the airport's incident commander, Wilkinson said. Though the airport is not designed to house people, Quinlan said in a tight squeeze the airport could be used as a shelter if it's not structurally damaged.

Source: [http://www.sanfranciscosentinel.com/news\\_in\\_brief/earthquake\\_centennial\\_series2\\_060409.shtml](http://www.sanfranciscosentinel.com/news_in_brief/earthquake_centennial_series2_060409.shtml)

35. *April 09, Journal and Courier (IN)* — **Drill conducted to test Newport Chemical Depot and emergency agency readiness.** The annual disaster drill that tests the readiness of the Newport Chemical Depot and surrounding agencies in Indiana and Illinois to respond to a spill or other emergency was recently conducted. The objective: To practice response to a supposed collision between a school bus and a truck carrying organic phosphate. Although the exercise in Kingman did not directly involve a leak of VX — the deadly nerve agent stored at Newport — federal observers with the Chemical Stockpile Emergency Preparedness Program oversaw the drill. In addition to Fountain County, nearby Parke County in Indiana and Vermilion and Edgar counties in Illinois also took part in the drill.

Source: <http://www.jconline.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20060409/NEWS/604090330/1152>

36. *April 09, Baltimore Sun* — **Disaster drill in Maryland illustrates need for better communication.** A mock disaster exercise at the Carroll County, MD, Regional Airport won high marks for efficient and effective responses to multiple perilous incidents. But the drill made apparent communication gaps among the county's police, fire and emergency services agencies. Participants, many of them volunteers, put out a propane-fueled fire, rescued children injured in a bus accident and defused a terrorist situation. The drill, held last Saturday evening, April 8, at the airport just outside of Westminster, showed that participants were frequently unaware of other emergencies occurring. Firefighters battled a fiery plane crash, unaware that a few hundred yards down the runway, police were involved in a shoot-out with terrorists transporting toxic gas. Instead of communicating on a single emergency radio channel, agencies maintained their separate channels, partially to keep lines open for actual events, said Vivian D. Laxton, county public information administrator. Major Thomas H. Long, chief of the Field Services Bureau for the Carroll County Sheriff's Department did not attribute communication gaps to technology, but called it a person-to-person problem within the various responding agencies.

Source: <http://www.baltimoresun.com/news/local/carroll/bal-ca.drill09apr09.0.1555853.story?coll=bal-local-carroll>

37. *April 09, Midland Reporter-Telegram (TX)* — **West Texas region explores role in new state hurricane plan.** A West Texas regional planning commission has until Thursday, April 20, to name an incident commander to lead Permian Basin in acting as a shelter location in the event of a major hurricane. Area representatives from a wide cross section of Permian Basin law enforcement, public safety, private industry and charity groups spent this past Thursday, April



6, training and brainstorming about the role the West Texas region may play if called upon to house evacuees fleeing another major hurricane this year. Ron Hilliard, with the National Emergency Response and Rescue Training Center, said Midland is among about a dozen inland cities being trained and evaluated to serve as evacuation hubs and shelter locations. Ed Krevit, chief deputy of the Midland County Sheriff's Office, said Thursday's training session helped area agencies coordinate the different roles each would play in enacting a shelter plan. Thursday's exercise also helped local authorities prepare for their role in state-wide hurricane exercises to be held May 3 that will involve coordination of resources and regional government councils across the state.

Source: [http://www.mywesttexas.com/site/news.cfm?newsid=16453776&BRD=2288&PAG=461&dept\\_id=475626&rfti=6](http://www.mywesttexas.com/site/news.cfm?newsid=16453776&BRD=2288&PAG=461&dept_id=475626&rfti=6)

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## **Information Technology and Telecommunications Sector**

**38. *April 09, Associated Press* — Cell phone industry steps closer to Voice over IP.** Nokia Corporation employee Wojtek Felendzer held a mobile phone to his ear as he walked across the room, the call automatically and seamlessly switching behind the scenes from a Wi-Fi wireless hotspot to the regular cellular network. While Felendzer took only a few steps, his demonstration at the CTIA Wireless 2006 conference in Las Vegas, NV, proved that mobile Voice over Internet Protocol technology has made a meaningful step forward. For years, Wi-Fi telephones and walkie-talkie-like communicators have been available for hospitals and offices. Now, manufacturers and mobile carriers are preparing to link standard cellular networks to the mishmash of Wi-Fi hotspots, a move that will expand coverage and perhaps make cheaper mobile minutes a reality. The technology, called Unlicensed Mobile Access, will help those who have high-speed Wi-Fi routers overcome any poor coverage in their houses or apartments. It's also a way for mobile carriers to expand their footprint without spending lots of money on new infrastructure. Voice minutes over Wi-Fi networks are far cheaper than minutes on cellular networks because they use free radio spectrum and the Internet and do not require large cell towers.

Source: [http://www.nytimes.com/aponline/technology/AP-Wi-Fi-Phones.html?\\_r=1&oref=login](http://www.nytimes.com/aponline/technology/AP-Wi-Fi-Phones.html?_r=1&oref=login)

**39. *April 07, Federal Computer Week* — Cyber attackers can exploit Pentium self-defense.** Your computer could hand itself over to cyber attackers when it's trying to cool off. That warning was issued this week at the CanSecWest/Core06 Conference in Vancouver, British Columbia. Computers with Intel Pentium processors can be hijacked through a built-in mode designed to protect the processor's motherboard, said Loïc Duflot, a security engineer and researcher for the scientific division of France's Central Directorate for Information Systems Security. The vulnerability affects every computer that runs on x86 architecture, including the millions that the U.S. government and industry use, said Dragos Ruiu, the conference's organizer.

Source: <http://www.fcw.com/article94004-04-07-06-Web&RSS=yes>

**40. *April 07, ZDNet (UK)* — Internet giants threaten mobile operators.** Mobile telephony companies need to adapt their business models to compete with major Internet players, analysts

agreed this week. Companies such as Google and Yahoo pose a risk to mobile operators, Gartner believes, as they develop mobile versions of their Internet services. This could encourage mobile users to turn to these companies for their mobile Internet services, making the mobile operators just a provider of connectivity and robbing them of crucial revenue in the future. Gartner says that mobile operators should respond to this challenge by forming partnerships with Internet companies, so they can launch new services together.

Source: <http://news.zdnet.co.uk/communications/3ggprs/0.39020339.392.61960.00.htm>

41. *April 07, CNET News* — **Federal Trade Commission shut down spam ring for good.** In a deal with the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) and the state of California, the people behind a prolific spam operation have agreed to pay \$475,000 and refrain from illegal activity. The deal, which does not include an admission of any wrongdoing, was reached with Optin Global, Vision Media, Qing Kuang "Rick" Yang and Peonie Pui Ting Chen, the FTC said in a statement Thursday, April 6.

Source: [http://news.com.com/Feds+shut+down+spam+ring+for+good/2100-7350\\_3-6059048.html?tag=cd.lede](http://news.com.com/Feds+shut+down+spam+ring+for+good/2100-7350_3-6059048.html?tag=cd.lede)

42. *April 06, Secunia* — **Cisco Optical Networking System 15000 series multiple vulnerabilities.** Some vulnerabilities have been reported in Cisco Optical Networking System 15000 Series, which can be exploited by malicious people to cause a denial-of-service (DoS) or compromise a vulnerable management system. Multiple services are vulnerable to ACK DoS attacks where an invalid response is sent instead of the final ACK packet during the 3-way handshake. This can be exploited to cause the control cards to exhaust memory resources, not respond to further connections, or reset by establishing multiple of these connections. Successful exploitation requires that IP is configured on the LAN interface (enabled by default). For more information please see source advisory.

Solution: Updated versions are available — see patch matrix in vendor advisory:

<http://www.cisco.com/warp/public/707/cisco-sa-20060405-ons.s.html>

Also update to Cisco Transport Controller version 4.1.0 or later.

Source: <http://secunia.com/advisories/19553/>

## Internet Alert Dashboard

### DHS/US-CERT Watch Synopsis

**Over the preceding 24 hours, there has been no cyber activity which constitutes an unusual and significant threat to Homeland Security, National Security, the Internet, or the Nation's critical infrastructures.**

**US-CERT Operations Center Synopsis:** US-CERT is aware of an active exploitation of a cross site scripting vulnerability in the eBay website. Successful exploitation may either allow an attacker to obtain sensitive data from stored cookies or redirect auction viewers to phishing sites where further disclosure of login credentials or personal information can occur. For more information about the reported vulnerability can be found in the following:

**CA-2000-02** CERT Advisory: Malicious HTML Tags Embedded in Client Web Requests <http://www.cert.org/advisories/CA-2000-02.html>

**VU#808921** US-CERT Vulnerability Note: eBay contains a cross site scripting vulnerability <http://www.kb.cert.org/vuls/id/808921>

US-CERT recommends the following:

Disable Scripting as specified in the Securing Your Web Browser document at URL: [http://www.us-cert.gov/reading\\_room/securing\\_browser/#how\\_to\\_secure](http://www.us-cert.gov/reading_room/securing_browser/#how_to_secure)

The Malicious Web Scripts FAQ information at URL: [http://www.cert.org/tech\\_tips/malicious\\_code\\_FAQ.html#st eps](http://www.cert.org/tech_tips/malicious_code_FAQ.html#st eps)

Validate web site addresses as described in the eBay Spoof Email Tutorial information at URL: <http://www.microsoft.com/technet/security/advisory/917077.mspx>

**ST04-014** US-CERT Cyber Security Tip document at URL: <http://www.us-cert.gov/cas/tips/ST04-014.html>

**ST05-010** Validate web site certificates as described in US-CERT Cyber Security Tip document at URL: <http://www.us-cert.gov/cas/tips/ST05-010.html>

### **Phishing Scams**

US-CERT continues to receive reports of phishing scams that target online users and Federal government web sites. Specifically, sites that provide online benefits are being targeted. US-CERT encourages users to report phishing incidents based on the following guidelines:

Federal Agencies should report phishing incidents to US-CERT.  
[http://www.us-cert.gov/nav/report\\_phishing.html](http://www.us-cert.gov/nav/report_phishing.html)

Non-federal agencies and other users should report phishing incidents to Federal Trade Commissions OnGuard Online. <http://onguardonline.gov/phishing.html>

### **Current Port Attacks**

<b>Top 10 Target Ports</b>	1026 (win-rpc), 12757 (---), 6881 (bittorrent), 38566 (---), 445 (microsoft-ds), 32459 (---), 135 (epmap), 25 (smtp), 41170 (---), 139 (netbios-ssn) Source: <a href="http://isc.incidents.org/top10.html">http://isc.incidents.org/top10.html</a> ; Internet Storm Center
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To report cyber infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact US-CERT at [soc@us-cert.gov](mailto:soc@us-cert.gov) or visit their Website: [www.us-cert.gov](http://www.us-cert.gov).

Information on IT information sharing and analysis can be found at the IT ISAC (Information Sharing and Analysis Center) Website: <https://www.it-isac.org/>.

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## **Commercial Facilities/Real Estate, Monument & Icons Sector**

**43. April 09, Associated Press — Between storms, water officials scramble to shore up weak levees.** California water officials scrambled Sunday, April 9, to pre-emptively patch weak spots in the state's levee system, tapping emergency funds meant for summertime repairs. After the rainiest March on record, many reservoirs in California's Central Valley are groaning at full capacity, and another 10 days of rain are forecast. State flood authorities used a weekend lull in between storms to identify levees and other water-control sites at risk of failing. Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger in February declared a state of emergency for California's levee system, a step that freed up about \$103 million for repairs to 24 flood-prone sites. That work is typically done in the summer, when water behind the levees is at its low point. But state water officials diverted what will probably be several million dollars from that fund into shoring up potential trouble spots now.

Source: [http://www.mercurynews.com/mld/mercurynews/news/breaking\\_news/14304043.htm](http://www.mercurynews.com/mld/mercurynews/news/breaking_news/14304043.htm)

**44. April 08, CBS/Associated Press — Principal: Kids' tips stopped shooting.** Authorities say a tip from two girls alerted officials at New Jersey's Winslow Township High School to a plot in which four teenagers were allegedly planning a lunch-period massacre. The four suspects, boys aged 14 to 16, now face charges of murder conspiracy, terrorism, terroristic threats, and conspiracy to make terroristic threats. All four were arrested last week. "We never heard definitively that it was this week," interim Principal Michele Ferner told the Courier-Post of Cherry Hill. "What we heard was the 28th or 24th of April because it was closer, and I hate to use this word, but the Columbine anniversary." Officials became aware of the plot in March when the girls went to the interim principal's office and mentioned a 2003 movie that depicts a school shooting. The boys remain in custody at the Camden County Youth Center in Blackwood, NJ, pending a juvenile court hearing this week.

Source: <http://www.cbsnews.com/stories/2006/04/08/national/main1482997.shtml>

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## **General Sector**

Nothing to report.

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<http://www.dhs.gov/iaipdailyreport>

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### **Contact DHS**

To report physical infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact the National Infrastructure Coordinating Center at [nicc@dhs.gov](mailto:nicc@dhs.gov) or (202) 282–9201.

To report cyber infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact US–CERT at [soc@us-cert.gov](mailto:soc@us-cert.gov) or visit their Web page at [www.us-cert.gov](http://www.us-cert.gov).

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